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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
22 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MORI/CDF
C02826126

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 67
(As of 1130 EDT)

GENERAL

1. President Sadat today ordered Egypt's armed forces to stop firing at approximately 1300 EDT, the time specified in this morning's UN Security Council resolution. Egypt's acceptance of the cease-fire, according to Cairo domestic radio is conditional upon Israel's observing the cease-fire. Damascus has not officially commented on the resolution. Earlier today, the Israelis accepted the resolution, subject to an immediate return of all war prisoners and the replacement of the 1967 cease-fire lines with secure and recognized boundaries defined in a peace treaty.

2. The Israeli bridgehead on the west bank of the Suez Canal is still some 19 miles deep and extends 25 miles along the canal from near Ismailia in the north to the southern end of the Great Bitter Lake, according to Tel Aviv. Some Egyptian units continue to fight within that area, but Israeli forces essentially control it. Israeli air attacks continued along both banks of the canal through the morning with no resistance from Egyptian fighters.

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3. On the Syrian front, Israeli forces have retaken Syrian positions on Mount Hermon this morning. The Israelis are preparing defensive positions on the mountain, which dominates the surrounding territory along the border between Syria and Lebanon. Damascus is planning to launch an offensive tomorrow morning,

[redacted] The Jordanian 40th Brigade reportedly will attack north toward Al Harrah. A second Jordanian armored brigade, the 92nd, may have moved into Syria during the night.

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4. The pace of the Soviet arms airlift to the Middle East continues to slacken this morning.

EGYPTIAN INTERPRETATION OF THE CEASE-FIRE

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5. [redacted]

[redacted] the cease-fire proposal of the US and the USSR was based on the principles laid out in his 16 October speech to the Egyptian Peoples' Assembly and the Arab Socialist Union Central Committee. Sadat, [redacted] stated that Egypt's acceptance of the cease-fire and willingness to participate in the peace conference are completely tied to an Israeli withdrawal, the chief point that the Egyptian leader had made in his 16 October speech. In that speech, however, Sadat made only vague promises of support for Palestinian rights and indicated that he would not back Palestinian claims to the territory of Israel proper, whereas in his recent contact with Qadhafi he insisted that the Palestinians would participate in the peace conference.

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OTHER ARAB REACTIONS

7. In Libya, a local radiobroadcast this morning expressed strong opposition to the resolution on the grounds that it was being imposed by the US, Israel, and the Soviet Union. Libyan police, stating that a demonstration is expected, today reinforced their guard around the US Chancery in Tripoli. The Italian Embassy has informed US officials that the demonstration is being formed by the Arab Socialist Union, the sole government-sponsored political party. A late report from Baghdad radio indicates that the demonstrators, after assembling to hear addresses condemning the cease-fire and US aid to Israel, marched on the US Embassy and pelted it with rocks.

8. King Faysal of Saudi Arabia did not receive the news of the UN resolution with any apparent gratification, [redacted]

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King is extremely skeptical of US resolve and of Israeli willingness to implement the resolution promptly and effectively. Faysal is particularly concerned about the status of Jerusalem. [redacted]

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[redacted] the King will not remove his total embargo on oil shipments to the United States until Israeli forces have withdrawn to the 1967 borders.

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9. Algeria has not yet made its official position on the cease-fire known. The local press this morning drew attention to the US-Soviet initiative which, the press maintains, makes the actual military situation of secondary importance. It also warns that the resolution will be difficult to implement, given the positions taken by Sadat and Mrs. Meir.

THE MILITARY SITUATIONEGYPTIAN FRONT

10. Israel's Chief of Staff Elazar today stated that Israeli forces are "in control" of nearly 500 square miles on the west bank of the canal. He

reiterated the Israeli claim that the "enclave" was 19 miles deep and extended some 25 miles along the canal from near Ismailia in the north to the southern end of the Great Bitter Lake.

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Israeli forces hold a much smaller area on the west bank, and their lines run only three to six miles west of the canal.

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Israeli forces are nearly to Ismailia in the north, but claims they do not extend as far south as Fayid. Tel Aviv, however, claims to hold Fayid,

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The Egyptians appear to be trying to play down the extent of the Israeli advance across the canal.

12. Information on the ground war continues to be sparse, but Israeli forces were noted active some three miles west of Kibrit this morning. Israeli aircraft continued to be active through mid-afternoon on both sides of the canal. Air strikes were flown against Egyptian ground forces opposing Israeli forces on the west bank near Fayid, Kibrit, and Deversoir. Israeli aircraft also were active over Port Said and Al Qantarrah. Egyptian antiaircraft artillery response to the Israeli air attacks, but there have been no reports of Egyptian SAM firings or fighter engagements so far today.

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13.

the Israeli attack across the canal to the west bank may have spoiled Egyptian plans.

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the Egyptians had planned a major offensive against the Israeli-held passes in the Sinai, beginning on 18 October. At that time, the Egyptians began

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receiving the first indications that Israeli forces had crossed the canal. Cairo initially believed that the Israeli thrust was not serious, but made plans to use the armored divisions intended for its Sinai offensive to counter the Israeli incursion if that became necessary. Since there has been no Egyptian offensive, [redacted] assumes that it was cancelled in the face of the major Israeli thrust.

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14. Except for the assertion that the Egyptians had planned a major offensive, this information fits with what has been observed over the last week. The Israelis crossed the canal with a small force on Tuesday night, 16 October, and steadily continued to build-up the force through Wednesday and Thursday. Despite the Israeli claims and evidence of a major attack on the west bank, the Egyptian response seemed slow and indecisive. Egypt apparently did not begin to move units back from the east bank to challenge the Israeli mobile columns until 19 October. The Egyptian 4th Armored Division reportedly moved back from the east bank through Suez City on that day.

SYRIAN FRONT

15. [redacted] the Syrians apparently are planning to launch an offensive tomorrow morning. While no other details were given, Jordanian forces will apparently again attack the Israeli right flank near the towns of Al Harrah and Mashara.

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16. Fighting remained at a low level through mid-day, [redacted] sporadic fighting is under way near Tell Aantar and that Israeli air strikes are being conducted along the 1967 cease-fire line. A small air engagement apparently occurred this morning over Syria, but no details are available.

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17. An Israeli military spokesman announced this morning that a combined force of paratroopers and

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elements of the crack Golani Brigade had retaken Syrian positions on Mount Hermon. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Israeli helicopters are landing bulldozers on the heights, probably in an effort to clear roads and to establish defensible positions. The control of the heights will enable the Israelis to dominate the surrounding territory along the Syrian-Lebanese border and will allow them to protect their left flank, while simultaneously endangering the right flank of the Syrian forces. The Israelis probably wanted to retake the mountain before any cease-fire agreement takes effect.

18. Jordan recently dispatched a battalion-sized force of some 20 tanks to reinforce the 40th Armored Brigade in the southern sector of the Syrian front, [REDACTED]

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The Jordanian 92nd Armored Brigade is slated to move into Syria today to join the 40th Brigade. According to a report from the US defense attache in Amman, advance elements of the 92nd Brigade may have moved into Syria during the night, apparently under orders to expedite deployment before any cease-fire takes effect.

19. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Syrian Air Force remains a viable entity because Israeli air strikes have failed to knock out important Syrian desert airfields. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] most of the Soviet advisers attached to the Syrian Air Force were stationed at these desert airfields.

20. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Moroccan forces in Syria now consist of a mechanized infantry force of 1800 men and an air force unit of some 218 personnel, including some pilots. The pilots are flying MIG-17 and MIG-21 aircraft, and the ground forces are in positions northeast of Sasa. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] an armored brigade and additional air force elements are scheduled to arrive in Syria in the near future.

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ARAB LOSSES ACCORDING TO TEL AVIV

21. The Israelis claim that 1,000 Egyptians, 300 Syrians, 11 Iraqis, and 5 Moroccans had been captured as of 20 October. Tel Aviv says that of the 1,300 prisoners, 112 are officers. Tel Aviv estimates that, as of 21 October, 1,850 Arab tanks and about 400 aircraft had been destroyed. US estimates are only slightly lower.

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KOSYGIN'S TRAVELS

23. There is no information available to confirm Baghdad press reports that Premier Kosygin has again returned to Cairo. The Lebanese press, meanwhile, has reported that Kosygin was in Baghdad yesterday. The Soviet news agency TASS has reported without comment, Secretary Kissinger's arrival in Tel Aviv and Cairo's acceptance of the cease-fire.

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ANNEX II.

SUSPECTED SOVIET SEABORNE MILITARY SHIPMENTS

Since 7 October, 19 suspect Soviet arms carriers have left Black Sea ports for the Middle East with an estimated 44,000 tons of cargo. No suspect arms carriers were reported underway to the area since the Nikolaj Gogol transited the Bosphorus on 21 October.

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<u>Ship Name</u>	<u>Date Through Bosphorus</u>	<u>Port Declaration</u>	<u>Cargo Declaration</u>
--Kapitan Shantsberg	7 October	Nicolaev for orders	1200 tons general

Deck cargo: 8 khaki flat top shop van trucks, 7 yellow stake trucks, 1 khaki canvas back truck, 1 khaki round shop van truck, and 11 wooden crates.

Probably arrived Alexandria 10 October and at Latakia 14 October.

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--Parizhskaya Kommuna	8 October	Il'ichevsk for Alexandria	1100 tons general
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Deck cargo: 70 possible stake trucks.

Arrived Alexandria 11 October. Departed 13 October for the Black Sea. ETA Odessa 16 October. Passed the Bosphorus northbound on 14 October.

--Fizik Kurchatov	9 October	Odessa for orders	3000 tons general
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Deck cargo: 14 possible KRAZ-214 cargo trucks, 2 possible MAZ-200 cargo trucks, 1 possible ZIL-157 cargo truck, [redacted]

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[redacted] 4 trailers approximately 12 feet long.

Arrived Alexandria 12 October, departed 14 October, and is scheduled to arrive Odessa 20 October. [redacted]

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Rhimik
Zelinsky

11 October

Nicolaev for
Rijeka

3500 tons
general

Nicolaev

Deck cargo: None visible.

Arrived Latakia 13 October and departed 15 October. [redacted]

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[redacted] Passed the Bosphorus north-bound for Odessa on 17 October.

Salavat

12 October

Odessa for
Algeria

3160 tons
general

Deck cargo: None reported.

Probably arrived Latakia 15 October. ETA Nicolaev 19 October to load for the Persian Gulf.

Nicolaev

Mezhdurechensk 13 October

Oktyabrskoe
for Norway

1600 tons
general

Deck cargo: 18 olive drab colored truck mounted heavy folding pontoon bridge (PMP) units, 1 olive drab tractor truck and 8 olive drab stake trucks.

Probably arrived Alexandria 15 October. [redacted]

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Sovetsk

13 October

Odessa for
Algeria2080 tons
general

Deck cargo: None reported.

Estimated time of arrival at Middle East port 15 October.
ETA Odessa 19 October to, stand about a week.

Serebryansk

13 October

Odessa for
Cuba3367 tons
general

Deck cargo: None reported.

-Suetz

15 October

Odessa for
Vlad1150 tons
general

Deck cargo: 4 large canvas topped vehicles, 2 khaki fuel trucks, 5 tractor trucks, 2 round top shop van trucks, 13 light khaki colored stake trucks and 1 flat top shop van truck.

--Okhotsk

16 October

Odessa for
orders1600 tons
general

Deck cargo: 10 canvas back trucks, 4 tractor trucks, 3 truck mounted crane shovels, 4 jeeps, 3 fuel trucks, 1 shop van trailer, 1 generator. All deck cargo was of military color.

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--Ho Chi Min	16 October	Oktyabrskoe for Algeria	1329 tons general*
Deck cargo: 1 stake truck, 3 dump trucks, 15 canvas back trucks, 15 canvas back trucks, 4 round top shop van trucks, 2 flat top shop van trucks, 1 cargo trailer, 1 generator trailer, 2 fuel trucks and 1 fuel trailer.			
--Smena	17 October	Odessa for Algeria	1530 tons general
Deck cargo: 150 probable SA-2 oxidizer tanks, 4 cargo trucks.			
--Sosnogorsk	18 October	Odessa for orders	2828 tons general
Deck cargo: 4 MIG-15s, [REDACTED]			
--Marnueli	19 October	Odessa for orders	509 tons
Deck cargo: None.			
--Bratstvo	19 October	Odessa for Alexandria	2000 tons (est) general
Deck cargo: Trucks and vehicles.			
--Parizhskaya Kommuna	19 October	Odessa for Rijeka	1200 tons general
Deck cargo: None observed.			

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* While CIA carries tonnage for the Ho Chi Min at 1329 tons, DIA carries 3299 tons. Cargo declaration was 13,299 tons.

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therefore, we opted for a tonnage of 1329 assuming error most likely was in the last digit. DIA is generally of the same mind, but rather excised the first digit so that their accounting holds the cargo at 3299 tons. In any case DIA has informed us that use of either figure is acceptable.

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-Leninskiy 20 October
Pioneer

4100 tons
general

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Deck cargo: None observed.

-Yunyj Leninets 20 October

3736 tons
general

Deck cargo: None observed.

-Nikolaj 21 October
Gogol

3500 tons
general

Deck cargo: None observed.

Number of Ships - 19

Total: 44,112 tons general

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